(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. After considering the notings of the then Minister of State [Agriculture] the then Agricultural Minister did not approve the recommendations of the ASRB, *inter-alia* the A.M. also made the following observation:

"Is there any procedure available at present to ensure that ASRB do not consider tainted officers?"

The matter was examined and it was observed that the Officer whose name was recommended by the ASRB was not an employee of the ICAR at the time of making application for the post. His application was received in the ASRB through his employer at the relevant point of time. The ASRB considered his candidature on the basis of no objection given to him by his employer at that time. However, at the time of processing the recommendation of the ASRB, it was observed by the ICAR that the candidate recommended by the ASRB for the post of National Director, NATP was involved in a C.B.I. inquiry. In view of this the recommendation of the ASRB was not approved by the Agriculture Minister.

Achievements of National Agriculture Policy

1044. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of achievements of national agricultural policy which was announced in July, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): National Agriculture Policy was announced in July, 2000. The Policy is under implementation. Against an annual growth rate in excess of 4% envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy, the rate of growth of agriculture and allied sector in the year 2001-02 has been 5.7% at 1993-94 prices.

Losses of DMS

†1045. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Milk Scheme has been constantly suffering losses for the past few years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the financial loss this institute suffered during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 separately;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of products of this institute were during the last few years to be at par with that of other products available in the market;

(d) if so, when this increase was affected the time;

(e) the reasons for the loss to this institute despite this increase in prices; and

(f) what steps are being taken to render the DMS profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The financial loss incurred by DMS during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 separately are as under:—

Year	Estimated Loss (in Rs.)
2000-2001	19.58 crore
2001-2002	16.07 crore

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The price of various milk products sold by DMS, earlier were by & large at par. The last increase in prices of these products were effected as follows:—

Milk product	Sale Price (in Rs.)	Date from which price has been revised
Ghee (1 litre poly pack)	135.00	7.11.2000
Salted Butter (500 gms.)	59.00	16.2.2000
White Butter (500 gms.)	61.00	16.2.2000
Flavoured Milk	6.00	3.5.2000
Youghurt (Plain & Sweet) (100 gms.)	4.50	3.5.2000
Paneer (200 gms.)	15.00	3.5.2000
Khushdil Dahi	5.00	18.5.2000

(e) The reasons for losses are, under utilisation of plant capacity due to decline in sale of DMS milk, dis-proportionate staff strength *vis-a-*

vis sale capacity, outdated machinery and manual as well as labour intensive system of production, increase in the cost of raw materials and increased staff expense due to recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission.

(f) The Delhi Milk Scheme is adopting professional approaches in difference areas of operation such as marketing, transportation, reduction in operation losses and also outsourcing of some of the activities.

Post-harvest Management for fruit products

1046. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI ABMIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study on Indian food products industry has revealed that India, with around 46 million tonne or 10 per cent of world's fruit production, is considered to be the second largest producer of fruits in the world;

(b) whether the study has pointed out that the country must improve post-harvest management, logistics, to complete the world market and has pointed certain suggestions in this regard; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to implement those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No study has been conducted by the Government to determine the production of fruits in the country. However, as per the available estimates for the year 1999-2000, the fruit production in India is 45.50 million tonnes. India is the second largest producer of fruits and our share in world production of fruits is about 10 per cent.

The Government is implementing various schemes for post harvest management of fruits such as (i) Development of commercial Horticulture through Post Harvest Management, and (ii) Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernization/Expansion of cold storage to address the issues on post harvest management and quality of produce.